Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery

May Minutes

Record of the Meeting of the Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery held on May 11, 2022 via in person, web and phone.

Members Present:  Martin Manahan, Chair(virtual) , Thom Lauzon(Virtual), Megan Cicio(virtual), Ed Flanagan (in person)

Others Present: Wendy Knight, Commissioner; Andrew Collier, Deputy Commissioner; Wesley Lawrence, Board Counsel; Jacob Humbert, Assistant Attorney General; Skyler Genest, OCE Chief; Tonia Pryce, Purchasing Coordinator; Katie Fleury, Program Technician I; Brendan Day Program Technician II; Sylvia Buzzell; Martin Prevost, Director of Licensing; Jake Feldman, Jake Marren, Hallie Rubalcaba, Sujeet Nuthulapaty; Ravi Prakash Varkoor, Rajesh Mollati;

Meeting Start:  9:00 am.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:
- Demo of licensing portal
- Hearing officer

Board Actions on Consent Agenda Items:
- Approve minutes from April 13, 2022 Board Meeting – Moved and approved. Thom 2nd Ed unanimous
- Approve licenses issued April 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022 – Moved and approved. Thom 2nd Ed

Public Comment:  None

Licensing:
- Pearl’s Place
  - Vermont creative culinary applied for a first and second class overlap of the two classes a common hallway where they would have to cross, Martin suggests employees may cross in hallway with alcohol not patrons. Approved motion my Thom 2nd by ed Unanimous  No alcohol consumption in shared hallway

Enforcement:
- Docket Number 2022-005 – CSW Food & Beverage (Pearl Street Pizza, Barre VT)
  - Re: Alleged Violation of General Regulation 16
Agreement reached; hard copy of signed agreement has not been received yet but has received scanned copy. Will be put on schedule for next month pending when we have a hard copy and check.

Discussion Items

- VCPM distribution model final report
  - Tabled until June meeting
  - Power point presented by Jake Marren
- Retailer License Agreement – Lottery
  - New gaming systems coming out good time to start new agreement
  - With new agreement it allows lottery to give approval for placement of play stations at agent locations
  - Merging two separate agreements into one
  - New agreement has language needed for State contracts.
  - Motion by Ed 2nd by Thom unanimous
- Demo of licensing portal
  - Skyler Genest demonstrated new licensing system
- Hearing officer
  - Backlog of cases which a hearing officer would help aid that.
  - Focused mainly on compliance related issues.
  - 14 pending cases that would fit seeing hearing officer
  - Motion to appoint Wesley as hearing officer, Jacob training DLC Enforcement, and a trail run motion by Thom 2nd by Ed Flanagan unanimous looking for recap in June meeting

Commissioner Comments:

- Renewals went smoothly this year
- First jackpot winner in VT for Lucky for Life bought in Colchester
- Powerball and Lucky for Life sales up
- Megabucks sales down
- April YoY liquor sales were flat up. Year to date up 7.2%
- On premise liquor sales March YoY up 51%
- April YoY up 30% for on premise liquor sales
- Sci Games conversions going well
- New B2B projects getting ready to launch
- West Rutland and Middlebury locations up for bid liquor stores
- 69 retail agent’s locations audited
- Rich Morey joining as director of retail ops
- Trucks now have VTrans Drive Well Campaign on them
- Liquor omnibus H730 making its way through legislator
  - New definition for cider
  - Small tweak to special event permits
  - New category definition of low ABV RTD to be distributed in the private sector
For technical corrections including staggered licenses and renewals

- Sports betting taken out will be picked up again next year.

**Other Business:**

- April Listings – Motion by Ed Flanagan 2nd by Thom Lauzon

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:58am

**Next Meeting:** June 8, 2022